

Pond, Charles E.

Colorado City,

El Paso County,

GIVEN under my hand and the executive seal this seventeenth day of March, A. D. 1905.

JAMES H. PEABODY, Governor.

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R E S I G N A T I O N.

March the seventeenth, 1905.

To the Honorable James Cowie,

Secretary of State of the State of Colorado,

Denver, Colorado.

S i r :-

I herewith officially inform you that I hereby resign my position as Governor of the State of Colorado, the same to take unqualified effect upon the delivery hereof to you.

In view of the peculiar conditions now existing, I deem it proper to briefly state, for the information of the public, the prime reasons that have moved me to take this step.

I initiated the contest before the legislature of Colorado to establish my title to the office of Governor, in the early part of the present year, believing then, and fully convinced now, that I received a plurality of the lawful votes cast for the office of Governor at the last general election.

I deemed it my bounden duty to the people of Colorado and to the Republican party, whose principles I revere, that I should begin and prosecute such contest, to the end that the will of the people, lawfully expressed at the polls, should be carried into effect.

The action of the legislative assembly of Colorado, in joint convention assembled, in deciding that my competitor, the Honorable Alva Adams, was not lawfully elected to the office of Governor, and that I was so elected, is a complete vindication of my course in prosecuting such contest.

To my surprise and regret, I discovered toward the latter stages of the contest, that certain members of the legislature, elected as Republicans, entertained feelings of ill-will and dislike toward me personally; I was of course conscious that an unfortunate schism existed among the members of the Republican party at the time I began my contest proceedings, but I was not then aware of the extent to which such schism extended.

I shall not attempt in this communication to vindicate my self against what I conceive to be a personal enmity, unwarranted by the facts, and ungenerous to a degree, suffice it to say that I am now painfully conscious of its magnitude.

I have always been, and will ever continue to be, a faithful adherent of Republican principles and doctrines, and I conceive it to be the duty of every true citizen

to make personal sacrifices, if need be, for the welfare of the political organization to which he may belong.

Imbued with these sentiments I am constrained to the conclusion that the best interests of the Republican party of this State will be subserved if I now retire to private life, hoping thereby that my present effacement as a political factor in Colorado will restore peace and harmony now so sorely needed in the Republican party of this State.

In taking this step it affords me pleasure to say to the people of Colorado that my legal successor in office, the Honorable Jesse F. McDonald, is a true and loyal Republican, as firmly devoted to its principles and policies as I am. I confidently believe that he will carry out both in letter and spirit the true Republican doctrine that law and order must be preserved at all hazards, that every law-abiding citizen shall be permitted to freely enter into contracts of employment with whom and for what wage he may elect, free from any domination or control by so-called labor organizations or others. The business interests of Colorado and its welfare will be as fully safeguarded in his hands as though I remained at the helm of State.

I feel that I have been cruelly aspersed by those who should have stood by me loyally, but it is not meet that I should dwell upon this topic. For the good of my party, for the best interests of the State I love so dear, the step I am about to take seems necessary from the standpoint of patriotism. I retire from the office a much poorer man than I entered it, and I indulge in the hope that in the near future those whose enmity has prompted me to retire from public life will come to a realization of the fact that their ill regard was undeserved.

For the foregoing I now herewith formally and unqualifiedly resign the office of Governor of the State of Colorado, the same to take effect immediately, to the end that my lawful successor, the Honorable Jesse F. McDonald, now Lieutenant-Governor of the State, may be forthwith duly inducted into office as Governor of Colorado.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES H. PEABODY,

Governor of Colorado.

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